



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 7203-25

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Nicholas Gerard Byrne et al.

Serial No.: 09/857,456

Filed: June 5, 2001

For: Interface Patch Clamping

) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

#5/a  
Jedap  
11/7/01

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claims 10-12 and 15-18 as follows:

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which contact between the pipette tip and the air/liquid interface and/or subsequent movement of the pipette tip into the liquid is detected by monitoring pipette capacitance.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which if no cell is contacted at or near the interface as or within a predetermined time after contact between the pipette and the interface, the pipette is withdrawn from the interface and then moved back to the interface to repeat the attempt to contact a cell.

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